



SRC CALENDAR

Monday, Feb. 27

- 10 a.m. Senate session and caucus

Tuesday, Feb. 28 - Saturday, March 4

- 9 a.m. Senate session, caucus, possible evenings

IN THE NEWS

On 2SHB 2292: "This solution could be summed up as 'mini-mal.' It's a bit like having your toe worked on when you need bypass surgery. It's great to fix your toe, but that's the easy part. We won't get to true liability reform until we operate on the heart of the matter." (**Sen. Mike Hewitt**, *The Olympian* 2-21-06)

"Q. Whoa, whoa, whoa. Are you telling me the malpractice crisis can be resolved if doctors can say **"I'm sorry?"** **A.** Your kindergarten teacher was right after all.

Q. I'm starting to tear up here. I hear that **Gov. Chris Gregoire is getting credit for brokering the deal.** **A.** Who would have thought those two groups could agree on anything, but the governor managed to get them together. Rumor is she's leaving next week to meet with the Israelis and Hamas and then to Turin to settle things between Olympic speedskaters Chad Hedrick and Shani Davis." (*Peter Callaghan, Tacoma News Tribune*, 2-23-06)

On the Senate earmarking \$13 million+ in WASL funding for another non-teaching day: "**Sen. Joe Zarelli** said, 'You're paying every teacher in Washington state to take the day off.'" (*Seattle P-I*, 2-22-06)

Columnist Bruce Ramsey on the "pay or play" bill: "The bill is a **project of the national labor movement**, which sees Wal-Mart as a competitive threat to union retailers." (*Seattle Times*, 2-22-06)

"Don't raid (the) WASL for teacher days." (*Seattle Times editorial*, 2-22-06)

On SB 6522, the **"campaign sunshine law:"** "We don't know who is contributing to whose campaign." (**Sen. Benton**, *The Columbian*, 2-23-06)

COMMITMENT TO WASHINGTON

We wonder: Does everything have to be political around here? Earlier this week, we began to hear the soon-to-be-history \$5 state parks parking fee referred to as the "Rossi park fee." Allow us to offer this brief history lesson.

The 2002 Democrat budget reduced state parks funding by \$1.5 million. Rather than close parks to offset the cuts, the **State Parks Commission administratively imposed the fee.** In 2003, Gov. Locke's budget proposal contained another 20 percent reduction in parks funding, putting five more parks at risk. **Sen. Rossi** not only rejected the governor's proposal, his budget fully funded the parks and even met their request for \$4 million more to hire additional workers. That in addition to balancing the budget he inherited that was already **\$2.6 billion in the red.**

This year, as part of our **Commitment to Washington**, Senate and House Republicans have proposed eliminating the parking fee, which has proven to be a burden for some families.

WHAT'S ON TVW?

Be sure to catch **Sen. Joe Zarelli** on TVW's "Olympia On Call." This program airs on Friday at 9 p.m. and will replay Sunday at 6 p.m. and Monday at noon and 6 p.m.

ARE WE DONE? THEN LET'S GO HOME!

Bills are moving fast and furious around Olympia, and the three Democrat budgets are amazingly similar. While there is more to do, and some bad legislation to hopefully stop, there is no reason to stick around Olympia any longer than we have to. Let's save the taxpayers money and **go home early!**



*Happiness is...
Olympia in your
rearview mirror!*

Senate Republican Caucus Communications - To submit an item or correction, contact Rebecca Japhet at Japhet.Rebecca@leg.wa.gov or (360) 786-7516.